

**March 2003**

## **Debris Removal Begins March 2003 at the Tracy Tire Fire Site Tracy, California**



### **COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE**

***DTSC is one of six  
Boards and  
Departments within  
the California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency.  
The Department's  
mission is to restore,  
protect and enhance  
the environment,  
to ensure public health,  
environmental  
quality and  
economic vitality,  
by regulating  
hazardous waste,  
conducting and  
overseeing  
cleanups, and  
developing  
and promoting  
pollution prevention.***

**State of California**



**California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency**



#### **Why Did I Receive This Flier?**

This flier/questionnaire is being provided to the local community to provide and get information regarding the Tracy Tire Fire site (Site) located at 29425 South MacArthur Drive, Tracy, California. The flier portion will provide you with background and history, and information on upcoming activities at the Site. The questionnaire is being provided so that we can get information from the community and use it to determine the level of community interest.

#### **What is the Tracy Tire Fire Site?**

S.F. Royster Tire Disposal Facility, an un-permitted waste tire facility, was owned and operated by Mr. Silas Fred Royster for many years. An estimated seven million tires were illegally stored at the Site in conditions ranging from orderly piles of bundled tires to large piles of unbundled tires. Drums of used oil filters, old vehicles, trailers, and other miscellaneous debris were also stored at the Site and burned during the fire.

On August 7, 1998, a grass fire at the Site spread and ignited the tires. Local fire and police, the San Joaquin County Public Health Services, Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Air Resources Board, California Integrated Waste Management Board, and California Environmental Protection Agency worked together to conduct emergency response activities (e.g. taking air samples) from the time the fire was discovered through August 10, 1998. However, emergency response activities did not include putting the fire out completely.

Once preliminary emergency response activities had been performed, Federal, State, and local agencies determined that the best course of action to deal with the fire was to let it "burn itself out". This decision was based on several factors including concern that putting water on the fire might generate excessive amounts of hazardous wastewater and impact local groundwater.

The agencies continued to monitor the Site until the fire, which steadily diminished over time, became small enough to be extinguished with foam and water in December 2000. Since that time the Site has remained vacant.

#### **What is the Next Step?**

The California Integrated Waste Management Board plans to redevelop the Site into an open-space wildlife habitat on behalf of the Royster Estate. Before that can be done, additional soil and groundwater investigations need to be performed

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

to provide the agencies with enough information to determine the best way to cleanup the Site to protect human health and the environment.

Beginning March 19, 2003 removal of debris, soil sampling, and installation of groundwater monitoring wells will occur at the Site. Debris includes such items as metal tire rims, oil filters, rusted automobiles and unburned tires. Debris removed will be transported to appropriate recycling and/or land disposal facilities.

### **How Will Cleanup Occur?**

Removal of anything other than debris (e.g. partially burned tires, and soil contaminated by burning tires and debris) will be addressed in May or June 2003 in a draft Remedial Action Plan (commonly referred to as a draft RAP). The draft RAP summarizes information obtained during the environmental investigations, presents various cleanup methods, and proposes one or more of the methods as the best way to address contamination at the Site. A fact sheet, like this one, will be sent out to the community announcing when and where the draft RAP will be available for public review and comment. A public meeting to accept public comment on the draft RAP will also be announced in the fact sheet.

### **What Will I See Happening At the Site in March 2003?**

Because it is in a relatively remote location, only nearby businesses are likely to notice activities occurring at the Site. The most obvious activities to occur on-Site will be use of construction equipment to load debris into trucks for removal, and the use of drill rigs to collect soil samples and install groundwater monitoring wells. A noticeable amount of truck traffic to and from the Site is also expected to occur.

Activities at the Site will occur Monday through Friday, during daylight hours. Truck traffic will travel along South MacArthur Drive, West Linne Road and Coral Hollow Road to Interstate 580. The increase in traffic will be intermittent during the project.

As a safety precaution, workers performing sampling activities may wear protective clothing and respiratory protection.

### **Who Do I Contact If I Have Questions?**

If you find that you have questions or need more information concerning this project, please contact one of the representatives listed below:

Chris Sherman  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3706  
csherman@dtsc.ca.gov

Heidi Nelson  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3575  
hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov

Ron Baker  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
P.O. Box 806  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 324-3142  
rbaker@dtsc.ca.gov

Albert Johnson  
Project Manager  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
1001 "I" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812  
(916) 341-6687  
ajohnson@ciwmb.ca.gov

Kim Schwab  
Associate Engineering Geologist  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
3443 Routier Road, Suite A  
Sacramento, CA 95827-3003

---

---

### **Notice To The Hearing Impaired**

TDD users can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Chris Sherman at 916-255-3706.

---

---

**COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE  
FOR THE  
TRACY TIRE FIRE SITE**

Please complete the following community survey and mail it to Heidi Nelson, Public Participation Specialist, DTSC, Sacramento Office, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826. If you have any questions please contact Heidi Nelson at (916) 255-3575.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

1. How long have you lived and/or worked in the area?

\_\_\_ 0 - 5 years \_\_\_ 6 - 12 years \_\_\_ 13 - 20 years \_\_\_ 21 or more years

2. Are you familiar with the site?

3. How did you become aware of the site?

4. What have been your sources of information concerning the site?

5. What is your current level of interest in this site?

\_\_\_ No present concerns \_\_\_ Low to Moderate \_\_\_ Moderate to High

6. Do you have any specific concerns about this site?

7. Have you had any contact with local or state officials concerning this site?

7a If yes, what was the nature of the contact?

8. Have you been actively involved with this site?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

9 What is the best way to provide information to you concerning this site?

\_\_\_ Fact Sheets \_\_\_ Community Meetings \_\_\_ Other

9a. If other please specify:

---

---

---

### Mailing List

If you have any comments concerning the Tracy Tire Fire site or if you would like to be put on the site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Heidi Nelson, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and if requested may be subject to release.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### TRACY TIRE FIRE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Recipient Address Here

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Attn: Heidi Nelson  
Public Participation Branch  
8800 Cal Center Drive, 3rd Floor  
Sacramento, CA, 95826

stamp